

children, and during her pregnancy with this, had suffered no injury, nor experienced any violent mental uneasiness; the delivery also was not painful, and was accomplished at the regular period of nine months.

The child, now in its eighth month, is in perfect health. Its head, trunk and arms are perfectly natural, and well developed. But it has a third leg proceeding from behind directly on the median line, so that it is scarcely seen, when the child lays on its back. This supernumerary member is of equal length with the others and the foot is furnished with ten toes.

In front, there is a double penis, separated at their bases about four centimetres, (about an inch and a half.) There is a double scrotum corresponding, each of which contains a single testicle. Each penis has its urethral canal, but these would seem to communicate with but one bladder; at all events, when urine is discharged, it proceeds in equal quantity from both orifices.—*Comptes Rendus*.

Should this child survive, will the French law allow him to marry? As germane to this subject, allow me to ask whether you have not a correspondent in North Carolina, who can verify the statement made some time since in the newspapers, that the Siamese twins are married? T. R. B.

86. *Antimony in the Living Organs*.—In a memoir presented by M. MILLON to the Academy of Sciences, June 22, 1846, on this subject, he deduces as the result of his experiments, the following conclusions:

When antimony penetrates simultaneously all the important organs, the lungs, the brain, the intestinal coats, the subject yields to the intoxication, and seems to die in every part at the same time, the tissues being reduced to an extreme state of emaciation.

If it be concentrated in the brain, the result is equally fatal, but death occurs in the midst of a train of nervous symptoms, which indicate the principal seat of the disease.

On the contrary, when it reaches organs less sensible, or tissues of inferior organization, or the cellular or osseous systems, and its effects disappear, we have then reason to believe in its elimination or total removal.

Should not this view of antimonial intoxication lead us to suspect analogous conditions in diseases from the introduction of lead? Certain organs escape its poisonous effects; and may not the concentration of symptoms in the abdomen, the nervous system and the extremities, indicate that the lead occupies these correspondent parts?

At all events, this mode of examination may aid in developing the nature of those affections in which the presence of poisonous substances is suspected, rather than demonstrated.

The enormous development of the liver, following after the administration of an emetic, is also a fact which should not pass unnoticed. Percussion should be applied in order to ascertain whether in man the frequent administration of antimony is coincident with a rapid enlargement of that organ.—*Comptes Rendus*.

T. R. B.

87. *Feigned Diseases*.—DR. FERGUSON, in his "*Notes and Recollections of a Professional Life*," speaking of the late war between England and France, says, "artificial ulcers of the legs were all but universal amongst young recruits, and spurious ophthalmia was organized in conspiracy so complicated and extended, that at one time it threatened seriously to affect the general efficiency of the forces, and was in every respect so alarming that the then military authorities durst not expose its naked features to the world. These are the results and ever will be the results, whilst human nature is constituted as it is, of service for life."—*Blackwood's Magazine*, August, 1846.

T. R. B.

88. *Arsenic*.—*How long before its symptoms appear?*—Two bottles of wine were left at a house in Paris, apparently as a present, but being unaccompanied by any message, the wife became suspicious that they had been sent with an evil intent. The husband, however, opened one of them and poured out a quarter of a glassful, which he drank. Finding it quite bitter, he, after a single swallow, rejected the rest. His wife also tasted a very small portion. During the night (three

hours after taking it), he was attacked with vomiting, and a general prostration of strength, succeeded by somnolency. At eleven o'clock the next morning, (being an interval of ten or eleven hours,) she was seized with similar symptoms. The family physician was now consulted. A portion of the suspected wine was given to a dog, who died in four hours after, with vomitings and convulsions. M. Chevalier was ordered to examine the liquid, and he found that it held in solution a large quantity of arseniate of potash.

An individual named Gineston was arrested on suspicion of having sent this wine, and on his trial, the above facts were proved.

The counsel for the defence presented the following questions, which they had submitted to Messrs. Jules, Barse and Devergie, with their answers.

1. Are the symptoms above stated, such as would occur from poisoning by arseniate of potash? They reply, that the symptoms from taking it in a dangerous quantity always occur speedily; in a quarter of an hour, half an hour, or at most three quarters. In this instance, the husband was seized at the end of three hours, and the wife, at eleven hours. This delay could not be explained by supposing that the stomach was full. In spite of this, absorption of the liquid would have gone on, and induced earlier indications of its poisonous nature. They deny also that drowsiness, somnolency, and chattering of the teeth, are symptoms of taking this poison.

2. What quantity of wine containing fifteen milligrammes of arseniate of potash per gramme of wine may be taken into the stomach, after a meal, without causing death? A wine thus charged, could not be taken, without inducing symptoms, if not mortal, at least much more severe than in the present instance. The witnesses say that *Fowler's Solution is identical with arseniate of potash*. Now twenty-two drops of this make a drachm, while eighteen drops is the extreme limit of safety. More than that will induce symptoms of poisoning, and M. Payeu has proved, that a person cannot gargle his mouth with wine in order to ascertain its taste (and not even swallowing a drop) without retaining on the mucous surfaces of the mouth, at least two grammes of the liquor, *i. e.*, double the dose necessary to induce severe symptoms. They hence ascribe the illness of both husband and wife to indigestion. *Gazette des Tribunaux*, 9th and 10th of August, 1845.

This case requires comparison with the remarks of Christison. See his *Treatise on Poisons*, 4th Edition, pages 299, 300.* T. R. B.

89. *Atropa Belladonna*.—Several deaths have recently occurred in London from eating the berries of this plant, the deadly nightshade. It seems that they have been extensively hawked about for "nettleberries," and recommended as nice for tarts, puddings, &c.

On a legal inquiry being made at one of the police offices, it appeared by the deposition of a female, that through such recommendation she had been induced to purchase a pint of them. The next day, being the anniversary of her wedding, she made a tart with the berries, after cutting off the stalks, and also cut up two apples, which she mixed with them, and, with her husband, partook of it. Her husband ate more heartily of the pie than she did. Before the remains of the dinner were removed, a customer came in to pay some money, and was accompanied by a child named Samuel Jones. The little boy looked very anxiously at the tart, and she gave him some. A few minutes after her husband had finished his dinner, he said he was drowsy, and went into the parlour. His lethargy soon increased, his countenance changed colour, and the pupils of his eyes became dilated. He said he had a very strange coppery taste in his mouth, and that he would go up stairs, and lie down on the bed. As he went up, he staggered, and upon entering his bed-room, fell, and became insensible. He subsequently became delirious and convulsed. She obtained an emetic for him, but could not get it down, as his teeth were firmly set. He attempted to strike her in his delirium, and when he recovered a little, said he was sorry and asked her to kiss him. These were the last words she heard him speak. He was conveyed to the London Hospital at seven o'clock the same evening, and died at ten the next day. The child to whom she had given some of the tart, died on the same

* A gramme is twenty grains; a milligramme one-fiftieth of a grain.